Unserviceable vallams.

402. ✻MR. K. A. MOHAMED (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*) : May I know from the Government :

(*a*) whether there are any unserviceable vallams in the hands of the department ;

(*b*) the number of such vallams ; and

(*c*) the reason for not releasing these vallams to the owners ?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) None at present.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise in view of answer to (a).

Repairing of vallams.

403. ✻MR. K. A. MOHAMED : May I know from the Government :

(*a*) the agency that has been entrusted with the repairing of vallams ; and

(*b*) whether they are aware that the present arrangement for repair of vallams causes loss and inconvenience to the owners ?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR : (*a*) There is no separate agency.

(*b*) Does not arise in view of answer to part (a).

Vallams for the transport of food grains.

404. ✻MR. K. A. MOHAMED : May I know from the Government :

(*a*) the number of vallams with their tonnage required for the transport of food grains at present ;

(*b*) the number of vallams with their tonnage now in the custody of the department ; and

(*c*) whether commandeering of vallams is still continued ?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR : (*a*) It cannot be stated definitely. The number of vallams required may vary from time to time according to the quantity of food grains to be transported from Cochin and from depot to depot within the State.

(*b*) The number of vallams now in the custody of the department is approximately 600. The total tonnage of these vallams cannot be furnished as the time and labour involved in the collection of the details are out of proportion to the probable utility thereof.

(*c*) No ; it has been stopped already for the time being.

European Firms and Companies.

405. ✻MR. P. S. MOHAMED : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of European Firms and companies as shippers and the number of Indian shippers in coir manufactured goods before the outbreak of last war and before the outbreak of this war separately ?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR : The information is not available.

The Travancore Cottage Industries and Shippers Union Ltd.

406. ✻MR. P. S. MOHAMED : Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Travancore Cottage Industries and Shippers Union Ltd., had brought to the notice of the Government that its members have not been fortunate enough to get the war purpose orders in coir goods secured by Government ?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR : Yes.

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